

# Common Grace

## Prayer Requests:

- Grandmother's health.
- Clarity about long-term plans.
- Health and provision for family.
- Hurting teenagers at Auburn.
- Transformation in Peterborough.

## Financial Update

- **\$890**— Amount given in November 2011.
- **\$2990**— Amount given since September, 2011.
- **\$12,000**— Estimated minimum annual amount required to make ends meet alongside Auburn salary.
- **\$ 11, 090**— Current trajectory for amount raised by September 2012.

## 2011: A Year of Foundation-Building

I am sure I am not alone in expressing the cliché sentiment, but I really cannot believe that 2011 is drawing to a close! It is shocking when I think about the fact that at the beginning of this calendar year, we had just discovered that Shoshanna was pregnant. Now, three-month-old Aliyah reminds us daily just how far we have come!

If there is one word I would use to describe this past year, it is "foundational." 2010 was a year of rapid-fire change; 2011, on the other hand, saw fewer changes, and was really a time where building blocks were laid for the rest of our life together. Career, family, and friendships were all factors that became simpler and clearer as the year progressed, and we cannot help but praise God for the faithful call he has placed on our life!

This next season promises to be one of child-rearing, pastoral work, community-building, and ever-increasing faith. Although I expect that there will be times when, like Job, we are called to rejoice in God despite pain and loss, this present time is one in which we can only say "Taste and see that the Lord is good!" (Psalm 34:8). I hope that, as your year draws to a close, you too might be able to rejoice in the riches with which God has blessed your family. Thank you for being a part of God's blessing in our life!



## School Update: Work, Vocation, and Ministry

I am currently working on the final paper for my eighth credit at Tyndale. This class, "Work, Vocation, and Ministry," was a careful look at how Christians should view and engage in work. We explored the Christian theology of work, the danger of treating "secular" and "sacred" work as different things entirely, and some practical steps on how to do our work with an eye towards glorifying God no matter what career we have. One of the most helpful reminders in this course was that God is not limited to being lord over our church lives and volunteer time, but wants us to submit to his will in every area of our life. Not only does this mean that we need to live out our faiths faithfully at work, refusing to compromise and being willing to share our faith with others, it also means that the way that we work and the relationships we build at work are a part of our Christian discipleship. Do you follow Christ in every area of your life? This is a good challenge for me, and for all of us!

## Ministry Snapshot: Mini-Retreat at Hope Valley

It may be December, but that doesn't mean that the time for outdoor fun is past! On the first weekend of December, we invited our teenagers to join us on a short retreat weekend at Hope Valley Day Camp. The weekend began with a movie night and sleepover at the church, and in the morning we got up and went up to the camp where we played games, ate great food (which they had to cook themselves), and discussed what it means to be a Christian disciple. The lessons were integrated with a video series we have been watching together on Friday nights, and looked at the tools God has given us to help us accomplish the impossible task of following Jesus. This is the first retreat I have planned myself (most of the time the brunt of the work goes to my very organized partner, Jordan), and I was pleased with the results: tons of fun, and some great discussions!

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or follow me on Google+  
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Roasting "Hobo Lunches" around the fire.



Keeping warm in the chapel.



### BEN PELTZ

Auburn Bible Chapel  
911 Armour Road  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9H 2A7

Phone: 705-742-1032  
Cell: 705-931-5990

E-mail: [ben@auburnbiblechapel.com](mailto:ben@auburnbiblechapel.com)

Ben works with teenagers connected to Auburn Bible Chapel in Peterborough, Ontario. He does his best to answer their questions and to help them navigate the crazy world of adolescence, so that they can emerge on the other side as mature Christian adults. He is also studying at Tynedale Seminary in Toronto, working towards a Master's of Theological Studies. He and his wife Shoshanna are raising a family of one, with plans for many more down the road!

To learn more and to support Ben and his ministry, go to:  
[www.auburnbiblechapel.com/ben-peltz](http://www.auburnbiblechapel.com/ben-peltz)